GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3559
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
TOBACCO CONTROL METHOD
RAM PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether three day International Convention on Worldwide Tobacco Control Methods was held in January, 2000 in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed in this convention; and

(c) the details of the action plan chalked out at national level to prevent the illeffects of Tobacco on health?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABIIA UNSTARRED QUESTION N0.3559 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2001

The Government of India and the World Health Organization jointly hosted an international conference on `Global Tobacco Control Law: Towards a WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control` at New Delhi on 7th-9th January 2000. The conference was inaugurated by the Hon`ble Prime Minister of India and the Director General of WHO as well as the Union Minister for Law, Justice & Company Affairs also attended the meeting.

The major recommendations of the conference are:

- Governments should urgently develop and implement multisectoral national tobacco control strategies and should establish mechanisms to monitor and enforce implementation of all tobacco control laws and regulations;

- Governments should support WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to encourage comprehensive national tobacco control action and global coordination on aspects of tobacco control that transcend national boundaries.

- The complex circumstances faced by developing countries in implementing effective national tobacco control strategies should be addressed in the FCTC. The FCTC should include a mechanism to assist countries in which public health resources are limited. Industrialized countries should support the establishment and strengthening of effective national tobacco control programmes in developing countries.

- The tobacco industry be held publicly accountable at the national and international level through legislation, litigation and other means.

- WHO should closely coordinate with regional and international trade organizations to ensure that tobacco control measures and trade liberalization measures are complementary;

- NGOs and others should take an active role in tobacco control initiatives at the sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

The steps taken to discourage use of tobacco products in the country are as follows:

1. A comprehensive legislation for discouraging use of tobacco products has been introduced in Parliament.

2. Smoking in public places such as Government offices, trains, air-conditioned buses have been restricted through administrative instructions.

3. Awareness programmes highlighting the dangers to health from the use of tobacco are being implemented.

4. Tobacco related advertisements are not being broadcast on AIR and Doordarshan by executive orders, while the transmission of tobacco products on the cable network has also been prohibited through the Cable TV Regulation Act.